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Government



Flag of Suriname

General

Suriname, located in the N part of South America, is bounded on the E by French Guiana, on the W by Guyana, on the S by Brazil, and on the N by the Atlantic Ocean.

The majority of the population inhabits the flat and fertile coastal area, 210 miles long, where dikes permit agriculture. The country inland is hilly and covered with dense tropical forests.

The climate is equatorial with uniformly high temperatures and rainfall. There is no recognized dry season.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Suriname guilder, consisting of 100 cents.

Suriname, which gained independence from the Netherlands in 1975, was formerly known as Netherlands Guiana or Dutch Guiana. Following a period of military rule, the country restored democracy in 1988 and became a republic.

The constitution provides for a Parliament, formed by a 51-member National Assembly, whose members are directly elected to 5-year terms, and a President, who is elected by the National Assembly for a 5-year term.

The legal system is based on Dutch civil law.

The capital is Paramaribo.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:	
New Year's Day	January 1

Revolution Day	February 26
Good Friday	Varies
Easter Monday	Varies
Labor Day	May 1
Liberation Day	July 1
Independence Day	November 25
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26

In addition, Holy Phagwa and Idd-ul-Fitr are observed Islamic holidays, the dates of which vary from year to year and are subject to the appearance of the moon.

Industries

The major industries include crude oil production, bauxite mining, aluminum smelting, timber, food processing, fishing, palm oil processing, leather goods, and livestock raising.

The chief crops are rice, coconuts, bananas, citrus fruits, vegetables, and cassava.

Languages

The official language is Dutch, but English is widely spoken. Spanish, Hindi, Javanese, and Chinese are also used. Sranan, also known as Surinamese or Taki-Taki, is a native language spoken by the Creoles and many young people.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is PAPA (+3). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U. S. Embassy is situated at Dr. Sophie Redmondstraat 129, Paramaribo.

The mailing address is American Embassy, Department of State, 3390 Paramaribo Place, Washington DC 20521-3390.